

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19707 210823Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009289 210825Z /10
O 210818Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3592

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: VN, US
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR
RIDGEWAY KNIGHT

1. FORMER AMBASSADOR RIDGEWAY KNIGHT CALLED ON EMBOFF
JUNE 20 TO REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH VIETNAMESE
AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG AT 11:00 THAT DAY. VO VAN SUNG
SAID HE HAD ASKED TO SEE KNIGHT "TO SEE WHERE MATTERS
STOOD RELATING TO MR. ROCKEFELLER'S TRIP TO VIETNAM."
KNIGHT HAD REPLIED THAT HE AND VICE MINISTER NGUYEN
CO THACH HAD AGREED IN HANOI THAT THE ROCKEFELLER TRIP
WAS A VALUABLE ONE-SHOT ASSET AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME. VO VAN SUNG AGREED BUT SAID
HE SENSED A COOLING ON THE US SIDE.

2. KNIGHT ASSURED SUNG THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE
AND, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, SAID THAT HE HAD IN HIS OWN
MIND A TENTATIVE PLANNED TARGET OF MID-FALL. VO VAN
SUNG'S ONLY REACTION WAS THAT "THEREFORE OUR HOLIDAYS
SHOULD THUS NOT BE INTERRUPTED."

3. VO VAN SUNG ASKED FOR KNIGHT'S EVALUATION OF THE
US MOOD TOWARD VIETNAM. KNIGHT REPLIED HIS PERSONAL
IMPRESSION WAS THAT VIETNAM HAD LITTLE IMMEDIACY FOR
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THE US PUBLIC, BUT THAT CLIMATE WAS NO WORSE THAN
BEFORE HIS HANOI TRIP.

4. VO VAN SUNG ASKED WHETHER US BUSINESS COMMUNITY --
AS OPPOSED TO USG AND PUBLIC IN GENERAL -- WAS EAGER
TO DO BUSINESS WITH VIETNAM. KNIGHT REPLIED THAT
GENERALLY SPEAKING US BUSINESS WAS INTERESTED, BUT

NOT TO POINT OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON USG. SOME SECTORS, E.G. OIL INDUSTRY, WERE MORE INTERESTED THAN OTHERS. KNIGHT STRESSED THAT VIETNAMESE WOULD BE MAKING A MISTAKE IF THEY THOUGHT MUCH COULD BE DONE WITH US BUSINESS OUT OF STEP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THERE MIGHT BE PLANNING AND PREPARATION, BUT NOT ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.

5. VO VAN SUNG ASKED KNIGHT TO LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS HE HAD SOMETHING TO PASS ON "PRIVATELY."

6. COPY OF AMBASSADOR KNIGHT'S MEMCON POUCHED TO EA/VLC DIRECTOR BROWN.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS19707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780258-0419
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780635/aaaabekj.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47473984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2265304
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR RIDGEWAY KNIGHT
TAGS: OCON, OVIP, PDIP, VM, US, (KNIGHT, RIDGEWAY), (VO VAN SUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47473984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014